IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A shaped expanded graphite article having, at least in an outer layer portion, an oxidation-resistant coating layer,

wherein the oxidation-resistant coating layer comprises a boron element and a phosphorus element, the content of the boron element in the oxidation-resistant coating layer being [[1]] 15 mass% or more and the content of the phosphorus element in the oxidation-resistant coating layer being [[0.1]] 2 mass% or more, and

wherein the content of the boron element in the oxidation-resistant coating layer is greater than that of the content of the phosphorous element in the oxidation-resistant coating layer.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Canceled)

4. (Canceled)

5. (Previously Presented) The shaped expanded graphite article according to Claim 1, wherein the oxidation-resistant coating layer has a thickness of 0.5 μm or more.

6. (Previously Presented) The shaped expanded graphite article according to Claim 1, wherein the boron element contained in the oxidation-resistant coating layer is contained in one material or a combination of two or more materials selected from the group consisting of: simple boron; boron carbide; boron chloride; boron fluoride; boron bromide; boron iodide; boron nitride; boron oxide; boron silicide; an organic boron compound; and a compound containing boron and phosphorus.

7. (Original) The shaped expanded graphite article according to Claim 6, wherein the material that contains the boron element has an average particle diameter of 200 μm or less.

8. (Previously Presented) The shaped expanded graphite article according to Claim 1, wherein the phosphorus element contained in the oxidation-resistant coating layer is

contained in one material or a combination of two or more materials selected from the group consisting of: simple phosphorus; phosphorus oxide; phosphorus carbide; phosphorus chloride; phosphorus fluoride; phosphorus bromide; phosphorus hydroxide; phosphorus nitride; phosphorus silicide; an organic phosphorous compound; and a compound containing phosphorus and boron.

9. (Original) The shaped expanded graphite article according to Claim 5, wherein a shaped expanded graphite article is a sheet shape.

10. (Currently amended) A method for producing a shaped expanded graphite article having an oxidation-resistant coating layer ~~according to Claim 1~~, comprising

contacting ~~wherein~~ a shaped expanded graphite article ~~is contacted~~ with a solution containing a phosphorus element and a boron element, and then

subjecting ~~subjected~~ said graphite article to a heat treatment.

11. (Original) The method for producing a shaped expanded graphite article according to Claim 10, wherein a material containing a boron element is one material or a combination of two or more materials selected from a group consisting of: simple boron; boron carbide; boron chloride; boron fluoride; boron bromide; boron iodide; boron nitride; boron oxide; boron silicide; an organic boron compound; and a compound containing boron and phosphorus.

12. (Original) The method for producing a shaped expanded graphite article according to Claim 11, wherein the material containing a boron element has an average particle diameter of 200 μm or less.

13. (Original) The method for producing a shaped expanded graphite article according to Claim 10, wherein a material containing a phosphorus element is one material or a combination of two or more materials selected from a group consisting of: simple phosphorus; phosphorus oxide; phosphorus carbide; phosphorus chloride; phosphorus fluoride; phosphorus bromide; phosphorus hydroxide; phosphorus nitride; phosphorus silicide; an organic phosphorous compound; and a compound containing phosphorus and boron.

14. (Original) The method for producing a shaped expanded graphite article according to Claim 10, wherein the heat treatment is performed at 200 degrees C or higher.

15. (Currently amended) A method for producing a shaped expanded graphite article having an oxidation-resistant coating layer, comprising ~~according to Claim 1~~

contacting ~~wherein~~ graphite as a material ~~is contacted~~ with a solution containing a phosphorus element and a boron element,

~~and then subjected~~ subjecting said graphite to an expanding treatment, and then ~~followed by a~~ shaping said graphite.

16. (Original) The method for producing an oxidation-resistant shaped expanded graphite article according to Claim 15, wherein a material containing a boron element is one material or a combination of two or more materials selected from a group consisting of: simple boron; boron carbide; boron chloride; boron fluoride; boron bromide; boron iodide; boron nitride; boron oxide; boron silicide; an organic boron compound; and a compound containing boron and phosphorus.

17. (Original) The method for producing a shaped expanded graphite article according to Claim 16, wherein the material containing a boron element has an average particle diameter of 200 μm or less.

18. (Original) The method for producing a shaped expanded graphite article according to Claim 15, wherein a material containing a phosphorus element is one material or a combination of two or more materials selected from a group consisting of: simple phosphorus; phosphorus oxide; phosphorus carbide; phosphorus chloride; phosphorus fluoride; phosphorus bromide; phosphorus hydroxide; phosphorus nitride; phosphorus silicide; an organic phosphorous compound; and a compound containing phosphorus and boron.

19. (Canceled).

20. (Previously Presented) The shaped expanded graphite article according to Claim 1, wherein the content of the boron element in the oxidation-resistant coating layer is 1-30

mass% and the content of the phosphorus element in the oxidation-resistant coating layer is 0.1-10 mass% .

21. (Canceled).

22. (Canceled).

23. (Canceled).

24. (Previously Presented) The shaped expanded graphite article according to Claim 1, wherein the content of the boron element in the oxidation-resistant coating layer is 15-30 mass% and the content of the phosphorus element in the oxidation-resistant coating layer is 2-10 mass% .